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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Allen et al.

Serial No.: 10/713,699

Filed: November 14, 2003

For: Improved Strings for Musical Instruments

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 **Group Art Unit:** Examiner:

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 13, 2004.

February 13, 2004 (date of mailing document)

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
- 2. Information Disclosure Citation (3 page2)
- 3. References (33)

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND IS REQUESTED TO CHARGE ALL FILING FEES DUE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.16 AND ALL OTHER FEES DUE UNDER SECTION 1.17 DURING THE PENDENCY OF THIS APPLICATION TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 07-1729.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Boland, 36,090

W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

51 Paper Mill Road

P.O. Box 9206

Newark, DE 19714-9206

(302) 738-4880

Date: February 13, 2004



Attorney Docket No.: MI/228

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Béland, 36,090 W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

551 Paper Mill Road

P.O. Box 9206

Newark, DE 19714-9206

(302) 738-4880

Date: February 13, 2004

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